Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing message headers by a first data processing system, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving, from a second data processing system, a message including a compressed header comprising an identifier to a ~~reference~~ referenced, uncompressed header and changes from said ~~reference~~ referenced, uncompressed header, and in response,

determining impact of header compression on performance, and

if favorable, supporting the header compression for subsequent communications, and

if unfavorable, refusing to support the header compression for the subsequent communications, wherein if the impact of header compression on performance is determined to be favorable, then handling said message by forming another uncompressed header based on said ~~reference~~ referenced, uncompressed header and said changes, and returning another identifier for said another uncompressed header to the second data processing system, said another identifier being assigned by the first data processing system for use in another compressed header generated by the second data processing system.

4-9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A method for compressing message headers by a first data processing system, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving, from a second data processing system, a message including a compressed header, wherein said compressed header includes an identifier to a ~~reference~~ referenced header and changes relative to said ~~reference~~ referenced header;

determining impact of header compression on performance, and

if favorable, handling said message, and

if unfavorable, refusing to handle said message,

wherein if the impact of header compression on performance is favorable, further comprising ~~the step of~~ reconstructing said message with an uncompressed header based on said ~~reference~~ referenced header and said changes, before the step of handling said message, and returning another identifier for

said uncompressed header to the second data processing system, said another identifier being assigned by the first data processing system for use in another compressed header generated by the second data processing system.

11-17. (Cancelled)

18.   (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ A method for compressing message headers by a first data processing system, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

        receiving, from a second data processing system, a message including an uncompressed header, a message including a compressed header or a request to support header compression, and in response,

                determining if there is sufficient storage available to support the header compression, and

                        if so, supporting the header compression for subsequent communications, and

                        if not, refusing to support the header compression for the subsequent communications,

                wherein said compressed header includes an identifier to a ~~reference~~ referenced, uncompressed header and changes relative to said ~~reference~~ referenced, uncompressed header, and the receiving step comprises ~~the step of~~ receiving the message including a compressed header, and if there is the sufficient storage available to support the header compression, then generating another uncompressed header based on said ~~reference~~ referenced, uncompressed header and said changes and returning another identifier for said generated another uncompressed header to the second data processing system to be used for a subsequent compressed header, said another identifier being assigned by the first data processing system.

19.   (Cancelled)